Number 88

ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

October, 2000

A BALANCED VIEW

AS 2000 WANES...

and we enter the second year of the new millennium, a quick look at the year we're leaving behind tells us that ISASC continues to flourish as the first and foremost of scale collector societies. We came into being in 1976, and today we're on the threshold of our 25th Anniversary. Our members continue to collect scales and build member friendships, our officers/directors continue to commit many hours to our Society's well-being, and our worldwide acceptance as the premier society of its kind continues to grow. What better time than now to thank those to whom our destiny is entrusted. They are: President Tom Dooley; Vice Presidents Steve Beare, Jerry Katz, Jerry Wilson, and Ruth Willard; Treasurer Eddy Konowitz; Secretary Norm Cima; Executive Secretary Jan Macho; and EQM Editor Diana Crawforth (who also is chairman of our sister society, ISASC Europe.). Our appreciation is also extended to all who headed up committees during the year, helped organize and run our convention, and otherwise served our Society in myriad ways. And, of course, we are in a state of constant gratitude to our members, one and all, whose support and encouragement is manifested in so many ways.

CHICAGO. YOUR KIND OF TOWN.

And you can count on it being decked out in all its festive trappings during our 2000 convention this coming May 10 to 13. Much is going on in Chicago these days, all to make the city's name evoke images of every kind of pleasure - - round-the-world dining, melodic opera, engrossing theatre, star-studded concerts, exciting sports, glamorous shopping, famed art galleries and museums (Sue, the most famous dinosaur ever!), and festivals and parades. Chicago is a round-the-clock panorama of places to go and things to do, which transforms into Navy Pier; State Street, That Great Street; Old Town; and The Magnificent Mile where we'll be ensconced in our hotel, the Allerton Crowne Plaza. At the Allerton you'll be treated to a program of scale-related activities that will make your scale-collecting heart beat faster.

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Just look through the magazine included in this mailing and then make your plans. The convention dates, we remind you, are May 10 to 13, and you really should begin or extend your stay by at least several additional days to make it a vacation that will enable you to enjoy some very special Chicago attractions.

GLORIA DOOLEY IS RARIN' TO GO.

Many of you, and especially those who were at the Seattle convention, know Gloria as the vivacious spouse of our president, Tom Dooley (and one of our Silent Auction helpers). Well, Gloria ran into a health scare not too long ago, but we're happy to report that she since has had an operation, the results were just fine, and she's back home keeping Tom company and making plans for their May trip to Chicago. All the best, Gloria. We were sure all along that the Dooley spirit would definitely prevail.

EUROPE BOUND?

If you're planning to take an April overseas vacation next year, we'd like to remind you that ISASC Europe is the host each year of two conventions, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Janet Scarratt, Meetings Secretary for ISASC Europe, tells us that the get-together next Spring will be on Sunday, April 8, near Chester, England, and specifically at Burton Manor, a well-known hotel. She further tells us that there are numerous antique shops in the Chester environs, and though the convention is on Sunday, a number of those attending are likely to show up Saturday for a day of antiquing, stay overnight at Burton Manor, and be right there for Sunday when the convention gets underway. If you'd like the details, write Janet at Lindridge Hall Farm, Desford, Leicester, LE9 95D, England.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT...

By the time you get this Newsletter, ISASC's Third Annual Midwest Mini-Convention will have been held in Leo, Indiana, on Saturday, September 30, at the home of member Ned Schaeffer and wife Ruth. If three fun-filled meetings in a row make for a tradition, then this most recent one surely qualifies, as it was as nice an event as the previous two held in Michigan in 1998 and 1999 at

the homes of, respectively, Ben Smith and Utz Schmidt. Those members who came to this latest get-together comprised, besides the Schaeffers, Ray and Donna Doyscher, Jim Dietrich and Joyce Glazier, Utz and Shirley Schmidt, Ben and Mary Smith, Jim and Barbara Tope, Larry Matson, and yours truly. Guests also were well-represented, and included Mike McGee (who joined ISASC on the spot) and son Todd; two Schaeffer grown offspring with spouses, one growing Schaeffer grand-daughter; and one Tope son.

Scales were displayed, bought and sold, and talked about (pre-empting the Olympics, the winning Chicago White Sox, and the presidential campaign), all of which was enhanced by a delicious lakeside luncheon and an entertaining talk about the Toledo Scale Company by member Larry Matson, who's a master service technician with the Antibus Scales and Systems of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, a Mattler-Toledo branch office. All in all, it was a great day for hobnobbing with fellow collectors.

ABOUT OUR HIGH-TECH STATUS.

Steve Beare, one of our high-tech authorities, sent us the following, on the theory that every member who's into the Internet would want to know what Steve has put on paper for all of us to read: "Our ISASC web site is now fully operational, so please take the opportunity to visit it at www.isasc.org. Our intent is to have it grow to meet the needs of our members and others interested in antique scales and weights. Some of the features are a welcome page telling about our Society, along with a membership application. Additional areas are ISASC contacts, numerous links to other scale-related web sites, and a photo gallery to highlight scales from our members' collections. We also have a Members Only area with features such as Publications List, Bylaws, Annual Report, Newsletters, and, eventually, back issues of Equilibrium. ISASC members whose email addresses are in the current membership directory will shortly be receiving instructions for accessing the Members Only area. Please let me (stevebooks@aol.com) know what additional features you would like, and I will do my best to incorporate as many upgrades as possible, such as online membership renewal, if there is sufficient interest." Thanks a million, Steve. Good advice that more and more of our members can take advantage of as they become disciples of the Internet.

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BOB TRAQUAIR RINGS THE METROLOGY BELL.

Enclosed with last July's EQM mailing was an excellent review of Canadian member Bob Traquair's new book titled, Compilation of Canadian Manufacturers and Distributors of Scales and Weighing Machines. The review, written by member Jerry Wilson, did an exceptionally fine job of describing all that the Traquair reference book contains. Suffice it to say, it touched a data-collecting nerve of a good number of members, and initial orders came in at a brisk rate to ISASC's Fulfillment Center (operated, we're quick to say, by Jerry Wilson!).

Jerry's follow-up message to me was: (1) We'd better thank Bob Traquair profusely for the time and talent he devoted to making his tome such a valuable addition to the metrology library of the world. This we find the easiest assignment ever. Thank you, Bob, many times over, for a job superbly well done. (2) To remind our members that Bob's book was printed in a limited quantity, so if you want one (and we can't believe any serious collector wouldn't), then you better order one right now. If you still have the review with order form attached, use it. If you can't lay your hands on it, contact Jerry Wilson, who is listed in the membership directory, and arrange to send him $20 for the biggest millennium bargain of the century.

SEVERAL LAST-MINUTE THOUGHTS.

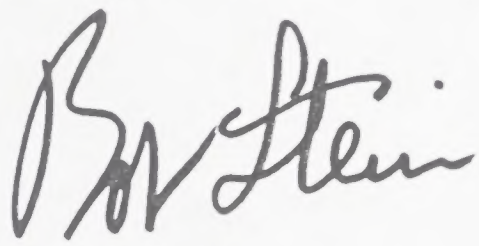
** Each year, about this time, we undertake the fund-raising side to our Benefactor Program, and we're about to get it underway for 2001. To those who've contributed in the past, please continue to direct your generosity our way. And to those who've yet to contribute, please consider joining the 90+ members who help support our Society in this voluntary way.

**In two months or so, you'll receive your dues billing for 2001 and the customary directory update card. Please, please, please, pay your dues promptly so our treasurer, Eddy Konowitz, has some time to lead a balanced life (that is, to collect scales, to eat his meals at the right times, and to get enough sleep). That's all he's asking. Also, do take a moment to fill out and return with your dues the directory information card. But - - only use it if there's a directory change to report - - address,

phone, fax, email address, marital status, current number of scales in your collection. If nothing's new in these respects, you need not fill out the form.

** Your latest membership supplement is enclosed and ready for insertion in your directory.

AND NOW, ANOTHER "ADIEU."

At the end of 1999, yours truly resigned as ISASC's President to make way for new leadership to take on the responsibilities needed to continue our good health and growth in the new millennium. This past year has shown that we've made that transition quite handily. Now, after this year of writing the four newsletters of 2000 (and the 84 editions of the prior 21 years), it seems the time has come to turn the job over to someone else, and who better than our President, Tom Dooley. So, as of January, 2001, you'll hear from Tom along the same lines you've been hearing from me, and I'm sure that Tom, relying on our members at large to keep him informed, will maintain the Newsletter as a viable communications link. And finally, please don't think that I'm now completely out of the ISASC loop, because, as you might have noticed, I'm the Chairman for the upcoming show, our 2001 convention in Chicago, where I hope to see all of you. Until then, my fondest regards to all my friends that our Society has blessed me with during my 25 ISASC years.

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